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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Frank Beurskens :
Application No. 09/776,162 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: 2 February, 2001 :
Attorney Docket No. 1148 :

This is a decision on the petition, filed on 16 February, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.137(f) which is treated as a petition to revive the above-identified nonprovisional application under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The Office apologizes for the delay in responding to the present petition and regrets any inconvenience to petitioner.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner states that the present nonprovisional application is the subject of a foreign or international application filed on 1 February, 2002. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was unintentionally not notified of this filing within 45 days subsequent to the filing of the subject application in a foreign country.

In view of the above, this application became abandoned pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(iii) and 37 CFR 1.213(c) for failure to timely notify the Office of the filing of an application in a foreign country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.137(f) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reply which is met by the notification of such filing in a foreign country or under a multinational treaty;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

and

(3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date of the reply until the filing of a grantable petition was unintentional.

The present petition has been found to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.137(f). Accordingly, the failure to timely notify the Office of a foreign or international filing within 45 days after the date of filing of such foreign or international application as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(i) has been rescinded. A Communication stating that the projected publication date is 26 May, 2005, is enclosed with this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay.¹ In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The petition fee of \$665.00 has been received.

The change of correspondence address filed on 19 February, 2004, cannot be accepted because it was not signed by an attorney of record.² There is no indication that petitioner herein was ever empowered to prosecute the instant application. If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney documentation must be mailed. A courtesy copy of this decision will be mailed to petitioner. However, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

This decision is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 3628 for examination in due course.

¹See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1208 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997).

²See MPEP §§ 601.03 and 405.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at 571.272.3231.



Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Encl: Communication Regarding Rescission of Nonpublication Request
and/or Notice of Foreign Filing

cf: Mark D. Hansing
McKee, Voorhees & Sease, P.C.
801 Grant Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines IA 50309-2721